

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 remain in this application. Claims 1-3 have been amended to bring out the feature of charging of the sample and to remove the limitation the Examiner found unsupported and replace it with a value having clear support in the specification.

Thus, with respect to the claimed secondary electron generation efficiency  $\delta$ , it is disclosed, on page 8, second paragraph in the specification, to be close to 1.0 in comparison with conditions used when the sample is charged.

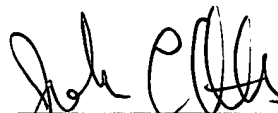
In view of the above, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 9, 2004

  
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